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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/599,315	09/25/2006	Alfons Eblenkamp	20794/0205386-US0	6798
7278	7590	10/27/2008	EXAMINER	
DARBY & DARBY P.C. P.O. BOX 770 Church Street Station New York, NY 10008-0770				GRAMLING, SEAN P
2875		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
10/27/2008		MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE
				PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/599,315	EBLENKAMP ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	SEAN P. GRAMLING	2875

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 June 2008.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 5-9 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 5-9 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/18/08</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Amendment*

1. Acknowledgment is made of Amendment filed June 18, 2008. Claims 1-4 are canceled. Claim 9 is added. Claims 5-9 are pending.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. **Claims 5-9** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Arcelik* (WO 02/14593).

4. Regarding claim 5, Arcelik discloses a laundry appliance comprising a housing 8 including a stamped section 12 recessed relative to a front of the housing circumferentially surrounding a loading opening 23 to a rotatably mounted drum of the appliance; a door 7 disposed on the front of the housing for closing the loading opening, an edge of the door and a surrounding edge of the stamped section forming a gap area therebetween when the door is in a closed position; and an illumination device (collectively elements 15 and 11) disposed in the stamped section so as to be concealed behind the door when the door is in the closed position, light of the illumination device being reflected at an edge surface of the stamped section and a

surface of the door edge so as to provide an illuminating ring visible at the front of the housing (see Figures 1 and 9, and pages 3-10).

5. Regarding claim 6, the illumination device in Arcelik includes a light source 15 disposed in an area of a hinge 6 of the door; and an optical waveguide 11 having a light output surface at periphery thereof (see Figures 7 and 9).

6. Regarding claim 7, the optical waveguide 11 in Arcelik includes a light output surface configured to provide a light-conductive connection with the light source 15 in the area of the hinge of the door (see Figures 7 and 9).

7. Regarding claim 8, the illumination device in Arcelik includes a diffuser 11 and a plurality of LED's 15 configured to back-light the diffuser, the LEDs being circumferentially spaced at an edge of the front of the loading opening (see Figures 7 and 9).

8. Regarding claim 9, the illumination device in Arcelik includes an optical waveguide 11 disposed in the stamped section of the housing (see Figure 9).

### ***Response to Arguments***

9. Applicant's arguments filed June 18, 2008 with respect to the rejection of the claims in the previous Office Action have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground of rejection is made in view of *Arcelik* (WO 02/14593).

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SEAN P. GRAMLING whose telephone number is (571)272-9082. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-FRIDAY 7:30 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on (571) 272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Sean P Gramling  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2875

/SPG/

/Sharon E. Payne/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2875